FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 APRIL 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation — The Iraqi Navy sank four Iranian vessels approaching Bandar-e Khomeyni on 17 April and hit an Iranian vessel trying to approach Nowruz oilfield the previous day, according to Iraqi military communiques carried by INA and Baghdad radio. In other developments over the weekend, Iraqi aircraft downed an Iranian helicopter northeast of the Gulf and struck at an Iranian air defense system in the southern sector, the communiques announced. The Iraqis also claimed that Iranian losses in the recent Maysan-Faqih offensive included 5,150 dead, a large number of wounded, 17 tanks, and 2 missile bases. Meanwhile, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio asserted that Iran has killed or wounded over 8,500 Iraqis, destroyed 98 enemy tanks, and downed 5 helicopters in the recent fighting.

Guards reenlistment — Iran's Revolution Guards Corps issued a statement calling on all those who have previously served at the front to "repeat their presence at the battlefronts" by reenlisting at mobilizaton headquarters in various cities, Tehran radio reported on 16 April.

Saddam Husayn Speeches — Despite the fact that Iraq is at war with Iran, "We say that we are ready to have even Khomeyni come to this place," Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told the Islamic popular conference in Baghdad in a speech broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. He praised the conferees for deciding to invite Iranian scholars to their conference since Islamic Law stipulates that Muslims should hear both sides of a dispute. While reaffirming Iraq's desire for a cease-fire and peace, Saddam Husayn stressed that Iraq's peace calls do not stem from weakness. The Iraqi leader subsequently announced to soldiers receiving bravery awards that the crushing of the latest Iranian offensive will have large negative military and political effects in Iran, INA reported. The Iranians chose the Faqih area as a location suitable for an infantry attack, Saddam Husayn contended, but the Iraqis guessed Iranian intentions and were not taken by surprise.

Oil Slick Talks — Health ministers of the GCC states, Iran, and Iraq again failed to reconcile Iraqi and Iranian differences over how to combat the oil slick leaking from Iran's Nowruz oilfield, according to KUNA reports on the 15 April Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment meetings in Kuwait. The Iraqis blamed Iran for the failure of the talks, KUNA said, and "informed sources" said the main obstacle to an agreement was Iran's refusal to accept an Iraqi observer's presence at the oil well to help supervise the maintenance operation. In remarks broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said Iran will never accept Iraq's demands that the issue be submitted to the UN Security Council and that an agreement on action to cap the leaking wells be made conditional on an overall cease-fire. The head of Iran's environmental protection organization, Mirza Taheri, subsequently blamed Iraq for the breakdown of the Kuwait talks, asserting that all members of the Regional Organization except Iraq "implicitly accepted Iran's views," IRNA reported.

Iran

Security Operations — A large number of officials of the Kurdish Democratic Party surrendered to government forces in the Piranshahr-Mahabad area, Tehran radio reported on 16 April. Earlier, the same source reported that a number of Mojahedin-e Khalq activists were killed or captured in Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces and in Mahabad along with other dissident groups. The report also said large numbers of weapons, explosives, radios, and documents were captured.

Aeroflot Flights — Flights between Moscow and Tehran will soon be resumed, Moscow Radio's Persian service announced on 15 April citing a Soviet aviation official.

Lebanon

Negotiations — Foreign Minister Elie Salim met with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, who reviewed the results of his recent meetings with Israeli leaders, Beirut radio reported on 17 April. The Israelis have postponed their response to Lebanon's latest stance pending a 19 April Israeli Cabinet meeting, the radio said. In a report on Habib's 15 April talks with the Israelis, Jerusalem television said Israel and Lebanon were becoming more flexible in order to reach agreement and a compromise was emerging over the status of Major Sa'd Haddad.

Military Cooperation With Jordan — Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri held talks in Amman with the Jordanian prime minister and Armed Forces commander, Beirut radio reported on 17 April. Noting that the Lebanese and Jordanian sides discussed bilateral military cooperation, the radio revealed that Jordan has decided to donate 20 tanks to Lebanon in addition to an earlier consignment.

Syrian Intentions — The Syrian daily TISHRIN announced that Syria will "not easily" agree to withdraw from Lebanon and that it may be obliged to announce a decision to retain its forces in Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported on 16 April. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told visiting Orthodox Bishop Philippos Saliba that the Syrians will leave Lebanon when Israel withdraws, according to a MONDAY MORNING magazine interview with Saliba reported by Beirut radio.

Military Situation — Palestinian forces in Lebanon are on "maximum alert" to confront any Israeli aggression, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir announced in Damascus in a statement reported by Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the Syrians handed over several forward positions in the Al-Biqa' valley to Palestinian forces while the Israelis deployed tanks in new positions overlooking the valley from the west, according to reports

by Voice of Lebanon radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon on 16 April. Earlier, the Syrians and Israelis again engaged in artillery clashes along the contact line in the Al-Biqa' area, Radio Free Lebanon said.

Syria

In his message to President Al-Asad on Syria's national day, President Reagan emphasized his determination to continue U.S. efforts for holding expanded negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 to bring about real peace in the region, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed on 17 April. Earlier, JANA reported that Al-Asad held contacts with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the wake of increased Israeli military preparations for a new attack against Syria.

Israel

Negotiations should not and cannot be dependent on the freezing of Jewish settlements in "Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza district," Prime Minister Menahem Begin stressed in a nationwide address broadcast by Jerusalem radio on the eve of the 35th anniversary of Israel's independence. After reaffirming that "Eretz Yisra'el" includes the Negev, Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza district, and the Golan Heights, Begin acknowledged that relations with Egypt have deteriorated but asserted that this was because of Egypt's failure to pursue the negotiations not only over the second part but even the first part of the Camp David agreement. Concerning Lebanon, Begin stressed that it is Israel's "full right" to insist that arrangements be agreed upon to prevent aggression against Israeli border areas.

PLO Affairs

After holding talks with Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov in Sofia, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis on 16 April and subsequently arrived in Morocco following brief talks in Tunis and Algiers with the Tunisian and Algerian presidents, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO, San'a' Voice of Palestine, Algiers, and Rabat radios. In remarks broadcast by Rabat radio, 'Arafat said he will discuss with Moroccan King Hassan II the issues to be submitted by the PLO to the Forthcoming emergency Arab summit conference. While admitting the existence of PLO-Jordanian differences, 'Arafat said both the PLO and Jordan are anxious to pursue their dialogue. Nevertheless, a PLO official in Rabat earlier denied reports that 'Arafat and King Husayn will hold a summit meeting in Morocco, according to INA. Meanwhile, AFP reported that the PLO Executive Committee would meet in Tunis 17 or 18 April in order to discuss the recent breakdown in the 'Arafat-Husayn talks and to define the PLO's position for the Arab summit conference.

After holding talks with Syrian President al-Asad in Damascus, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said PLO-Syrian talks "at the highest level" will take place shortly. Speaking on Radio Monte Carlo, Hawatimah confirmed that he and Al-Asad had agreed that an Arab summit conference is unnecessary at present.

Jordan

Jordanian officials in Amman disclosed that King Husayn has sent a letter to President Reagan attributing the suspension of the PLO-Jordanian talks to the U.S. failure to recognize the PLO, Baghdad Voice of PLO reported on 15 April. A Jordanian envoy subsequently delivered a message from Husayn to Moroccan King Hassan II dealing with the PLO-Jordanian talks and the question of their resumption, INA noted. In another development senior Israeli officials announced that Israel knew about President Reagan's "secret promise" to Husayn to restore Jordanian sovereignty over the West Bank in return for Husayn's agreement to join the peace process and his promise that a Palestinian-PLO state would not be established in the area, the Israeli daily MA'ARIV reported on 17 April.

Saudi Arabia

Arab Summit — The need to convene an Arab summit increases day by day, a Riyadh radio commentary stressed on 17 April. It called for concentrated Arab efforts to confront Israel's plans.

Aid Commitments — Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Kayl affirmed the Kingdom's determination to adhere to its financial commitments in the development projects of Arab and other friendly developing countries, SPA reported citing a statement published by AR-RIYADH on 17 April.

Egypt

Defense Minister on Libya, USSR — Egypt would view with "concern" any foreign military presence in Libya resulting from treaties with the Soviet Union and its allies, Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said, according to Beirut radio on 16 April. In an interview with the Cairo paper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reported by MENA, Abu Ghazalah stressed that while Egypt harbors no aggressive intentions toward its neighbors, it will confront "with all strength and firmness" any direct or indirect threat to its security.

Soviet Official — A Soviet Foreign Ministry official will visit Cairo soon for talks aimed at normalizing bilateral relations,INA reported on 16 April. Monitored Egyptian media have not reported this development.

Reaction to Shultz Statement — Commenting on Secretary of State Shultz' statement accusing the PLO alone of obstructing the peace talks, AL-AHRAM said it is an impossible position to demand that the PLO accept everything while not demanding that Israel cease building settlements and withdraw from Lebanon, MENA reported on 15 april.

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Karachi: UN Spokesman Cited on Talks in Geneva

BK151553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Cordovez, completed 5 days of indirect talks in Genera today on finding a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. A United Nations spokesman said Cordovez held five rounds of talks separately with Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Karmal regime's foreign minister, Shah Mohammad Dost. The spokesman said the UN secretary general's personal representative met with the Iranian senior diplomatic representative in Geneva on Tuesday and apprised him of the situation of the talks. The spokesman said the talks are to conclude next week but they might be extended by a day or two.

AFP: Mujahidin Besiege Soviet Surveillance Station

BK161738 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Islamabad, April 16 (AFP) — Soviet bomber planes waged a week-long assault until last Tuesday on Afghan mujahedeen resistance fighters dug in on mountains overlooking the town of Khost, a spokesman for the anti-Soviet rebels in eastern Paktia Province said today.

He said by telephone that Soviet attempts to break the mujahedeen's siege of a Soviet surveillance station five kms (three miles) outside the town had failed and trucks carrying supplies had been forced back.

The spokesman said a number of Afghan soldiers and a Soviet military advisor had been killed, and that an end to the Soviet air raids on April 12 allowed the resistance to evacuate their wounded to Red Cross equipped shelters at Miram Shah.

Meanwhile, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC AGENCY reported that Soviet forces broke up clashes between different Afghan Communist Party tendencies at Sarobi some 70 kms (40 miles) east of Kabul last Wednesday.

The same day that the fighting — over food rationing — took place, the government-run food supply centre burned down, the agency added.

'Counterrevolutionary Elements' Captured in Jowzjan

LD171837 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] A number of counterrevolutionary elements who intended to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in [name indistinct] village, Sheberghan District, Jowzjan Province, last Thursday were crushed by the brave revolution defenders of the village. The leader of the counterrevolutionaries, Bahaoddin Qol, and two others, Gholam Nazar and 'Abdol Khaleq, inhabitants of Jowzjan Province, were captured.

A spokesman said a number of assorted weapons and a quantity of ammunition were seized from these terrorists and murderers.

Border Militia Meeting Opens in Kabul

LD172114 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] A general jerga of border militia including some 220 representatives from Qandahar, Nangarhar, Herat, Nimruz Provinces and Khost major district opened yesterday in Kabul.

A general meeting of the jerga took place today at the National Fatherland Front hall. Major General 'Abdol Qader, minister of national defense and candidate member of the DPDA Central Committee Politburo, delivered a lengthy speech concerning the role of militia in the defense of the homeland and the protection of the country's borders.

The commander of border militia also spoke about the activity and history of militia. His speech was followed by statements by a number of representatives from the Nangarhar, Qandahar, and Herat provincial militia. They pledged on behalf of their militia to spare no effort to maintain the interests of the toilers of the country and realize the aims of the revolution.

In today's meeting of the border militia, Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of Army political affairs, representatives of the general border force, and officers participated.

The participants of the border militia yesterday toured the units and companies of Armed Forces Division No 8, the artillery excercise field, and battalions within the division.

Spokesman on Aid To Seal Gulf Oil Leakage

BK151609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has said that government's attention has been drawn to a news item stating that three Oil and Natural Gas Commission experts are leaving for the Gulf countries to undertake the sealing operation of the oil wells which have caused massive oil leakage. The spokesman clarified that the Government of India has been informally sounded in this regard. He said we have expressed our willingness to be of assistance but this is subject to prior agreement being reached among the concerned Gulf states and particularly the two warring countries. No agreement has so far been reached, he added.

Satellite Successfully Placed in Orbit 17 April

BK170909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The SLV-3 rocket was successfully launched today from the Sriharikota launch pad at about 1106 this morning. It injected into orbit around the earth the Rohini satellite just 9 minutes 12 seconds after blast off.

The Vikram Sarabai space center at Thumba tracked the Rohini satellite on its orbital flight at 1248 hours. The space center was able to track the satellite for 10 minutes. According to PTI, a space center spokesman said all systems onboard are working all right.

The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, watched the launch on close circuit TV of the main control room at the Sriharikota range.

It is hoped that today's launching of the SLV-3 will help India to send into space a 150 kg satellite using the augmented satellite launch vehicle, ASLV, in 1984-85. It will also pave the way for the launching of a 600 kg sun-synchronized satellite using the polar satellite launch vehicle in the late 80's.

Reported 'Quite Healthy'

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Excerpt] A Sriharikota high altitude range spokesman said that the satellite is quite healthy and sending signals, each one of its orbit being completed every 99 to 100 minutes. The Ahmedabad earth station tracked the satellite this afternoon. It started receiving signals from the orbiting satellite at 1245 hours. The signals were received for 7 minutes and were good.

Defense Minister Comments on Strengthening Forces

BK171613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has said that the government is taking appropriate steps to strengthen defense forces and to acquire most suitable military technology for them. He was addressing Air Force personnel at Bennari in Allahabad today.

Referring to the introduction of sophisticated arms in our neighborhood, Mr Venkataraman said that our defense forces should be fully prepared and ready to face any challenge to the national security and sovereignty.

Self-Sufficiency in Conventional Weapons Claimed

BK170843 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] The country has achieved self-sufficiency in developing conventional weapons systems. Disclosing this to newsmen in Pune, the director of the armament research and development establishment said arms and other related equipment produced in India are comparable to those produced by any advanced country. He said that the establishment is celebrating its silver jubilee this year. It has completed over 500 projects during the last 25 years.

Two 'Underground' Nagas Arrested 17 April

BK171615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] In Nagaland, the Army today arrested two underground Nagas belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. They were identified as self-styled captains.

One foreign-made pistol with a loaded magazine, a large number of ammunition, and incriminating documents were recovered from them. They were reported to have been involved in the firing on a security forces vehicle near (Khudema) in June last year.

Police Disperse Congress-I Agitators in Agartala

BK180321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] A PTI report says that eight persons were injured in Agartala when police made lathi charge to disperse a group of Congress-I agitators obstructing movement of vehicular traffic. The agitators were demanding an inquiry into the killing of the Congress-I member of legislative assembly, Mr Parimal Saha. The injured have been removed to hospital. The report says that several Congress-I leaders and workers including the president of the party state unit, Mr (Ashoke Bhattacharjee), were arrested.

Meanwhile, night curfew continues at Vishalgarh in view of the prevailing tension.

Zia Discusses New Political Setup, Baluchistan
GF161612 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Apr 83 P 1

[Text] Quetta, April 11--President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that modalities of the country's future political structure were being worked out and would be announced on or before Aug 14 this year.

He was addressing a news conference in Quetta this morning before his departure for Islamabad on the conclusion of the three-day tour of Baluchistan Province.

The president in reply to a question said that it was being considered as to whether the proposed political structure would be within or without the framework of 1973 Constitution, on party or non-party basis and provide for division of powers between the president and the prime minister. "These are the lines on which we are working", he stated. He told a questioner that elections to local bodies would be held towards the end of this year when the tenure of the present local bodies would be over. The current year, he pointed out, had already been declared local bodies election year.

In reply to a question, President Ziaul Haq said that Baluchistan was quite peaceful and added that after having toured the area, he could emphatically say that it was making rapid strides in all fields of life and that he was more than satisfied with the pace of development in the province.

Replying to another question, he said that causes of disturbed conditions in Kohlu agency during the previous regime were mainly due to politics and the present government had taken steps to remove these causes. Situation in the area, he added, had changed since the present government took over the rein of the country. He said that the entire province was today peaceful and people were taking keen interest in development and welfare activities of their areas. This fact, he pointed out, was now being acknowledged not only at home but also by international mass media.

The president in reply to yet another question said that new education policy, which was under formulation, would soon be announced. It would, he added, provide a balance between primary and higher education to meet the need of the country and eradicate illiteracy. He said that education would be given great importance in the next financial year and the sixth plan period.

He told a questioner that he hoped that the Pat Feeder expansion programme in Baluchistan would be implemented with Japanese assistance. Similary, he added, Saindak copper project in Chagai District would be carried out as a joint venture with Canada.

The president said Pakistan's coastal area, according to reports available so far, are not facing any danger from the oil slick in the Gulf. He, however, stated that a team of experts from University of Karachi had been sent to Pasni and Gwadar on Mekran coast to study the situation.

The president told a questioner that he hoped danger to other countries in the region due to flow of oil into Gulf waters would be averted through spirit of mutual consultation and understanding. He said that Pakistan had offered technical assitance in this connection to other countries.

In reply to a question, he said that Pakistan desired to have good neighbourly relations with India on the basis of equal footing and mutual respect. He said that during his recent visit to India he had left this impression in that country and added that similarly he carried back a good impression. He hoped further steps would be taken towards this end.

Asked about the prospects of Pakistan's candidature for the post of Organisation of Islamic Conference secretary general, the president said that Pakistan was first to put up its candidate and hoped that other countries, including Bangladesh, would extend their support to Pakistan and demonstrated solidarity of Islamic umma.

He told a questioner that he would have talks with the visiting Egyptian president on bilateral matters, international issues of common interest and situation in Middle East, including the Palestinian question. These talks, he hoped, would produce good results.

The president said that the Quetta-Khahan highway would henceforth be a national highway. Khahan, is the last small town on the Pakistan-Iran border and is about 450 miles west of Quetta in the Chagai District of Baluchistan. The president said though the provincial government would look after this important road but the federal government would meet the expenses on its maintenance and repairs. He was hopeful with this decision, the condition of this road would greatly improve and help in the economic development of the area. The Quetta-Khahan road is the third road in Baluchistan to be declared as the national highway.

Another important project of its kind under construction — is the Quetta-Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan road and the Sibi-Talli-Khahan-Kohlu-Rakhni-Dera Ghazi Khan road. The network of these roads links Baluchistan with the international borders on the one side and the provinces of Sind, the Punjab and the NWFP on the other.

The president said that Saindak copper mine development project would now move ahead as a joint venture in collaboration with Canada. He said that some other countries had also offered to cooperate with the Pakistan Government in this project.

The president said an official history of the Pakistan Army will be published in a year or so. He said that for the first time an attempt had been made to write the history of the Pakistan Army.

He said under a well-defined policy of the government, every Pakistani had the right to write or compile books based on his or her experiences. He told a questioner that he only regretted the printing of a book written by retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan in India. General Musa, he said, had also written a book based on his experiences as the chief of the Pakistan Army during the 1965 war.

Replying to another question, he said he had discussed the construction work of Bolan Medical College complex at Quetta

with the provincial governor. He admitted that pace of construction work was slow adding that necessary steps are being taken to get it completed very soon.

Team To Monitor Threat From Gulf Oil Slick

BK171048 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] A four-member team of experts sponsored by the University of Karachi is leaving for Gavater tomorrow to study the possible effects of the Gulf oil slick on Pakistani shores. The team members will collect samples of sea water, soil, and biological objects after every 2 weeks to see the physical changes due to the oil slick in the Gulf. Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative says that during the 4-month mission, the team members will also minitor the movement of sea water to find out if the oil slick poses a direct threat to Pakistani shores.

Iranian, Palestinian Students Demonstrate

GF171240 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 15 Apr 83 p 6

[By MASHRIQ special correspondent]

[Text] Lahore, 14 April — Palestinian and Iranian students demonstrated against U.S.-Israeli collusion near Masjid-e-Shohada in Lahore. The students also distributed pamphlets and carried banners condemning U.S.-Israeli actions. Large contingents of police officials were present, but no untoward incident occurred.

Explosions in Western Part of Karachi Reported

BK161644 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, April 17 (AFP) — At least two people were seriously injured when two powerful explosions ripped through the western part of Karachi today, official sources here said.

In one explosion, in the Martin Road area in front of a Sunni Moslem mosque just before dawn prayers, no loss of life or property was reported. The mosque was empty at the time of the blast.

In the other, inside a building in the Liaqatabad area, where explosives were stored for manufacturing fire crackers, at least two women and some children were injured, according to eyewitnesses.

Officials said they thought the explosion was accidental. But five people were taken into custody for questioning.

The blast caused panic in the area, with traffic coming to a halt and shopkeepers, fearing a chain of violence had begun, pulling down their shutters soon after a thick pall of smoke enveloped the warehouse.

The predominantly lower middle class neighborhood has been the scene of communal clashes this year. At least twelve people have died from a number of shops and houses being set on fire by militant Moslems.

BRIEFS

NEW PLANNING MINISTER — Dr Mahbubul Haq was sworn in as federal minister for planning and development in Islamabad this afternoon. The oath of office was administered by the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, at a special swearing in ceremony. The ceremony was attended by the federal ministers and federal secretaries. Dr Mahbubul Haq will continue to work as ex officio deputy chairman of the Planning Commission. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 14 Apr 83 BK]

Musavi Comments on Attending Baghdad Conference

GF171654 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA — In connection with an invitation for an Iranian delegation to attend an Islamic conference in Baghdad, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said when contacted by IRNA that Iran would accept the offer with one condition.

If the conference demands that the murderers of Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr, the religious leader of Iraqi Muslims, and his sister Bent-ul Hoda, who were martyred three years ago after severe torture in Baghdad, be introduced by the Iraqi regime and if this crime is condemned by the conference and those who committed it are announced for the world of Islam, then a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran will attend the conference, he said.

The prime minister added that true and revolutionary Iraqi ulema would be included in the Iranian delegation and it was necessary that the conference guarantees that the same crimes committed against Ayatollah Sadr would not be repeated against the Iraqi ulema.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,285

LD151725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,285 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Greetings to all the proud and generous families who have honorable and struggling children fighting on the fronts of the war between right and wrong. Greetings to all the courageous and proud and victorious combatants of the Islamic homeland. A summary of the military operations carried out on the southern and western fronts of the country are hereby announced:

In the Wal Fajr operational region, the activities of our victorious combatants to destroy the forces of the Zionist enemy are continuing successfully. Following several counteroffensives launched by the enemy yesterday and this morning, which were all foiled, more heavy damage and casualties were inflicted on the defeated Saddamist forces. The forces of Islam, which enjoy complete dominance and are fully prepared, have now opened intense fire on the positions of the Saddamist mercenaries, are crushing the enemy's futile efforts and are clearing the liberated areas while consolidating and establishing their new defensive positions.

In the operational regions of Abadan and Khorramshahr, as a the Arvand Rud, enemy fire yesterday was silenced and the movements of the Saddamist forces and their trench digging operations were stopped. In addition, 10 enemy trenches and foxholes were destroyed.

Yesterday, as a result of enemy heavy arms fire,three houses were demolished in Abadan. In the westernoperational regions, exchange of sporadic fire continued, being more intense in the Mehran region. The enemy damage in this region comprised two mortars, seven vehicles, and two ammunition depots.

In the exchange of fire in Marivan region, our combative units opened fire on the Valyaveh Garrison and inflicted damage and casualties on the enemy. Also, the Saddamists' movements on the Riyareh-Khormal road were stopped and one vehicle carrying Iraqi personnel was set on fire.

On one of the western fronts, two Iraqi soldiers presented themselves to the forces of Islam and asked for asylum.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,286

LD161747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,286 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Constant fighting and fierce clashes coupled with artillery exchanges continued in the past 24 hours between the warriors of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in the Wal Fajr operational sector. The triumphant and valiant forces of Islam victoriously continued with their relentless battle and answered all the Iraqi defeated mercenaries' ineffectual efforts and actions.

Sporadic exchange of fire continued on the country's remaining southern fronts. On the Abadan front, the combatants of Islam opened retaliatory fire on enemy positions and units and destroyed three Iraqi observation posts along with their occupants, halting enemy artillery fire and traffic in the embattled zone.

The city of Abadan yesterday came under the criminal Saddamists' artillery fire, as a result of which a number of houses were damaged and one of our dear compatriots was martyred.

On the western fronts yesterday, fighting continued in the form of exchange of artillery and other heavy arms fire. While defending their positions, the Islam warriors brought enemy positions and units under their fire and crushed one enemy vehicle column. During this operation, most of the Saddamist mercenaries' vehicles were either damaged or completely destroyed. Two enemy ammunition dumps along with one 106-mm fieldgun and a considerable number of bunkers were also destroyed. Our forces also sent patrol groups and infiltrated the Iraqi defense lines and inflicted losses on the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

Some of the Saddamist mercenary forces in one of the western fronts who tried to advance and penetrate our forces' defensive positions were stopped by our vigilant warriors. They used artillery fire in crushing the aggressor Saddamist forces' advance and inflicted considerable losses and casualties on enemy forces.

On the Marivan front, as a result of the army's heavy artillery fire on the enemy positions and units in the Panjwin region, losses and casualties were inflicted on the Iraqi mercenary forces.

In the past 24 hours, all air aggression by the aggressor Iraqi aircraft on the country's western and southern frontier regions was repulsed by the selfless personnel of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,288

LD171723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,288 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The combatants of Islam continue their holy jihad against Saddamist blasphemy with self-sacrifice.

In the Wal Fajr operational theater and on the frontlines in that region, severe clahses are in progress between our forces and the enemy. Our combative forces are defending their positions despite concentrated enemy fire and are bringing enemy artillery and armored positions under fire.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational sector, exchange of fire occurred yesterday on both sides of the Arvand Rud. Thanks to our forces' firing, enemy movements were prevented and five trenches and foxholes and two observation posts of the Saddamists were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded.

In the western operational theater, our forces yesterday defended the region and exchanged fire. On the fronts in that region, thanks to our forces' firing, an enemy ammunition dump, an engineering vehicle, an assembly building, 2 trucks, and 12 enemy infantry emplacements were destroyed.

In the regions under the jurisdiction of tribal combatants, by dispatching patrol groups and infiltrating the defensive positions of the aggressors, losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Also, during an exchange of fire in the Marivan sector, a number of enemy vehicles and bunkers on the other side of the border were destroyed.

Yesterday, as a result of enemy long-range heavy weapons' fire on the residential areas of Abadan, three houses were wrecked and a bank in that city was partly damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Communique Issued on Wal Fajr Operations

LD161855 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Joint Communique No 11 of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "By the break of day; by the nights twice five. There is no capability nor power, but with God." [verse from Koran]

The valiant battle between the self-sacrificing sons of Islam and the pro-'Aflaq Saddamists, launched in order to remove the sinister presence and aggression of the ruling Zionists in Iraq, continues with the further annihilation of the Ba'thist-Zionist aggressive forces and their complete expulsion from the dear Islamic homeland, Iran.

The victorious troops of the hidden imam, peace be upon him, shall continue their war of affection [as heard] until final victory and the realization of the just conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

O you brave Islamic nation, you martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, having inflicted heavy blows on the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist forces during 31 months of resistance against the Ba'thist-Zionist forces, the Islamic combatants in the first phase of the Wal Fajr operations inflicted another defeat on the criminal Saddamists and their filthy Western and Eastern supporters. This victory was achieved through the assistance of Almighty God and under the command of the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, which is the headquarters for the joint operations of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Since the commencement of the first phase of the victorious Wal Fajr, the Islamic forces, having crossed numerous obstacles, including deep canals 8 meters wide, booby traps, vast minefields and electrified barbed wire over 500 meters in depth spread along the entire operational field, smashed the first and second lines of the aggressive and Zionist Iraqi forces and, by killing or wounding over 8,500 enemy troops and capturing more than 350 of them, liberated 150 sq km of the occupied parts of the homeland in the northern sector of Faqih.

In the course of these glorious operations, the brave defendants of the Islamic homeland, consisting of the valiant troops of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces and the self-sacrificing guardsmen, as well as the personnel of the Islamic Mobilization Corps, succeeded in dealing heavy blows on Iraq's 108th Brigade of the Mechanized Infantry Division and the 501st Brigade as well as three 550-strong units of Jeysh ash-Sha'abi and three commando battalions. Consequently, they generally destroyed major parts of the aforementioned units.

Furthermore, as a result of the fire by the anti-infidel Islamic forces, major parts of the 34th and 51st Armored Brigades as well as the 419th, 701st, 703d and 417th Brigades of the Mechanized 1st Division, the 60th Armored Brigade, and the

603d Brigade of the 10th Division, including one Sudanese brigade and the 37th Armored Brigade of the 12th Division and the 12th Armored Brigade of the 3d Division — known as Ibn al-wali — were destroyed and smashed along with three battalions from the 8th Mechanized Brigade of the 3d Division and the 14th Battalion of Tamuz from the 17th Armored Brigade of the 1st Iraqi Division.

During these triumphant operations, the Islamic combatants, having destroyed numerous group bunkers, set ablaze several enemy ammunition dumps. Moreover, in addition to smashing 98 enemy tanks which have been accounted for, a great many personnel carriers and vehicles of the enemy were destroyed by the Islamic forces, with several serviceable tanks and personal weapons captured by our forces. Also, five helicopter gunships of the Iraqi forces were downed by our forces. We rely on no one but God.

[Signed] Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Volunteers Asked To Reenlist for Transfer to Fronts
LD161813 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps' Public Relations Office released a statement tonight in which it invited all those brothers previously at the warfronts of right against wrong to repeat their presence at the battlefronts for the last blows to be inflicted on the corpse of the Zionist regime of Iraq. All these brothers should call tomorrow morning at the mobilization headquarters in Tehran and at the corps bases of the 30th Region in the cities of Damavand, (Firozkuh), Karaj, Shahr-e Rey, Varamin, and (Islam Shahr) so arrangements for their transfer to the fronts can be made.

Bombing of Iraqi Residential Areas Denied
LD171317 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The Cabinet of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a session this morning chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. The meeting examined the country's current affairs and regional developments. Following today's meeting, Musavi briefed correspondents on the topics discussed by the Cabinet. The prime minister said: Today's session examined the Iraqi regime's dissemination of false statements on the bombing of Iraq's residential sectors, a claim which we categorically deny. Such false statements are aimed at preparing the ground to intensify the crimes of the Zionist regime of Iraq through the use of weapons which that regime has acquired from major powers.

The prime minister added: The world public opinion must realize that to preserve its existence Saddam's regime may resort to any criminal act and lie; an example of this is currently that of the oil wells of the Persian Gulf. On the basis of the report submitted by the chief of the environmental protection organization to the Cabinet today concerning the Kuwait convention, there are signs that public opinion in the region is heating up against the actions of the Zionist regime of Iraq.

The prime minister added: At today's meeting the Cabinet allocated a sum of 10 billion tomans for reinforcing the Armed Forces and the Corps. The allocated sum is divided equally between the Armed Forces and the corps.

Navy Official Denies Ships Sunk, Helicopter Downed
LD181128 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 18 (IRNA) — A high ranking official of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today categorically denied the Baghdad regime's allegations that its Navy have [as received] sunk four Iranian ships in Khowr-e Musa, southwest of Khomeyni Port, on Sunday.

He also noted that the Iranian helicopters all returned to their base safely after carrying out successful missions yesterday, as another Iraqi claim of having downed an Islamic Republic's chopper is thereby refuted, he added.

This official further commented that such false claims were due to the recent Iraqi forces defeats in their confrontation with the Iranian (?naval forces) and to conceal the sinking of an Iraqi gunboat while attacking Iran's Ardashir oilfield.

Military Chief on 'Domestic Enemies,' Wal Fajr Operation
LD151415 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered the presermon speech at Friday prayers in Tehran and talked about the imposed war and the battle reports from the first [as heard] Wal Fajr operations.

At the beginning of his speech referring to the battle against domestic and foreign enemies and world-devouring imperialism and its manifestation in various hostile guises, he said: Our fighters recognized our domestic enemies, who revealed themselves in the form of counterrevolutionaries and hypocrites and destroyed them with all their might. They had not yet eliminated the clashes, plots, and conspiracies of the counterrevolutionaries when mercenary Saddam attacked our country. In fact, this imposed war is not a war between Iran and Iraq. It is a battle between truth and falsehood, a war between Islam and blasphemy. Mercenary Saddam is only an agent of the archsatan, America, who is merely fulfilling his mission. As god's grace has always been with us, this war became a beginning for the official exporting of our revolution. Now we have reached such a point that the whole world is amazed.

The speaker then referred to the changes which have come about in national departments and organizations as a result of the imposed war. Concerning the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: The battlefront brought about great changes in the Armed Forces which, after the revolution, had only changed in name and which harbored great problems and

disorder; so much so that the Armed Forces was being manipulated by the minigroups which, at the same time, were trying to dismantle it. However, with the grace of God and as a result of the unstinting support of the imam of the nation for the Armed Forces, the latter regained its position and moved toward perfection. Ever since the beginning of our battles against domestic and foreign enemies, we clearly witnessed the evolution and transformation of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a short time traveled a long road, which should have taken many years.

At the battlefronts, the members of the Armed Forces were cleansed, purified, went toward God, and gave martyrs or were disabled on the path of God. We hope the Armed Forces will grow in strength to become the powerful arm of the Islamic Revolution.

Referring to Army Day, the commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Today is the day of the renewal of the covenant of the Armed Forces. Today, after God, the Armed Forces relies upon the people and its fighters. A strong bond exists between the Armed Forces and the people. Today, our war colleges [as heard] are not the same as before. Nowadays, teachers and instructors train the fighters in practice. He added: The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be strong so long as they are not isolated from the people and so long as they can keep pace with the fighters of Islam and with revolutionary organizations.

The speaker then referred to the cooperation and collaboration of the Armed Forces with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the reconstruction crusade and other national organizations and departments. He then talked about battlefield developments and, referring to the ups and downs of former battles, he said: One of the heavy responsibilities placed on our shoulders — we who are responsible for the battlefronts — is to deal with facts and people in such a way that we will inform the people about the facts of the battlefronts. We should not always get our people and fighters accustomed to the idea of winning. This is contrary to God's way. God says that if at times you see that you suffer defeats in appearance, you should know that these defeats and victories come from God. Therefore, these ups and downs are divine tests of the people. We should beware lest we fail in these divine tests and are defeated, so that God may find us worthy and bestow His assistance and victory upon us.

Emphasizing that — thanks to God — so far the Armed Forces of Islam have not been defeated and that from the Thamin al-A'emmeh battles [as heard] up to the Wal Fajr operations the forces of Islam have always been victorious, the Ground Forces commander said: This is due to God's favor and grace. We believe that we achieved these victories as a reward to the fighting nation.

In conclusion, referring to the latest battles by the forces of Islam and to developments on the battlefronts of the war between truth and falsehood, he said: We started the first Wal Fajr operations with complete unity and in the name of God. On a battlefront more than 36 km long, the fighters of Islam succeeded in smashing enemy lines despite all obstacles, minefields,and booby traps and crushed their forces in six areas. He added: This battle started in an area where — in addition to being impassable — the enemy had constructed many fortifications. Our forces succeeded in fighting the Zionist Iraqi forces and dragging them through dirt and blood. Since the beginning of these battles, the enemy has launched more than 30 counterattacks; but all of them have ended in their defeat. The Zionist Iraqi aggressors have been forced to flee in complete disgrace in the face of the fighters of Islam.

Col Sayyad-Shirazi added: In the first Wal Fajr operations, our forces succeeded in liberating more than 150 square km of our country from the filthy domination of the aggressive forces of Saddam in the north of Faqih and west of the Doyrak River. He expressed the hope that the fighters of Islam will be able to defeat the aggressive enemy as soon as possible and that while achieving the legitimate rights of the fighting Iranian nation they will be able to save the Muslim Iraqi nation from Saddam's subservient regime.

Official: Iraq Blocks Agreement on Oil Slick Solution

LD162308 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 16 IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran and all other members of the eight-nation Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) except Iraq had come to an agreement to approve ways for capping the leaking oil wells at the Nowruz oil field, Iranian head of the environmental organisation, Mirza Taheri said in a press conference here Saturday.

Mirza Taheri said that just as all member countries were about to end their second meeting with a joint agreement, the Iraqi delegation left the meeting.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival a Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, Mirza Taheri said all members of the organisation had confirmed Iran's position towards the situation and had agreed on a basic and general policy to deal with the problem.

He added that despite this fact, the Kuwait press had accused Iran of refusing to come to a general agreement in the meeting.

"The least we wanted was to create a suitable situation in order to be able to cap the leaking wells," he said, "and near the end all seven countries, except Iraq implicitly accepted Iran's views."

However, Mirza Taheri said, despite the failure of not having reached an agreement, this does not mean that the organisation had come to a dead-end and the date for the next meeting would be announced in the next few days.

Also, the head of the Iranian Continental Shelf Oil Company Ashgar Ibrahimi told reporters that a reasonable assessment was that the oil slick has so far covered an estimated 150 square miles of the Persian Gulf and warned that an additional 20,000 barrels of oil could leak into the waters soon because the wells' metal pipes were melting.

Ibrahimi said that during the meeting of the organisation's technical committee, the members agreed that with the capabilities presented to them, Iran could cap the wells on its own.

He added that the agreement between Iran and the six other member countries would be discussed in the next ministerial meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in order to bring pressure to bear on Iraq to accept the agreement.

Mirza Taheri then said that in connection with Iraq's second missile attack on the Iranian Ardashir oil field, Iran had sent a protest note to the head of the Kuwait convention requesting that Iraq be condemned for its repeated attack.

Musavi Comments on Oil Slick Negotiations

LD171351 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] At the end of today's Cabinet session, the prime minister granted our correspondent an interview on the oil leakage into the Persian Gulf and the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran:

[Begin Recording] [Question] Regarding the oil leakage in the Persian Gulf, how long will these meetings, which produced no direct or decisive results, continue? Bearing in mind Iraq's sabotage, what measures will the Government of the Islamic Republic take to prevent the oil leakage?

[Answer] We made such very constructive suggestions that, as explained by our brother, through the positions they adopted all the Persian Gulf countries present at the conference showed that they are aware of the justification of our country's stance. However, the Iraqi regime, maybe in the vain hope that it could excert pressure and involve the United Nations in some way or another, did not concede this.

Of course, faced with such a stance,the Persian Gulf countries will continue to be endangered by enviromental pollution, particularly with the dangerous threats recently made by Iraq and the fact that it has attacked another oilfield. Although this oilfield has not been seriously damaged, I hereby declare to all these countries and to world public opinion that this issue can become a tragedy for all the people of the Persian Gulf coasts — not on our side but on the Arab side — and not only can it destroy marine life but it can also threaten the important ports of these countries; it can seriously endanger their desalination plants. It is natural that countries friendly to Iraq, which have hitherto helped it, must be aware of this danger and must stop the madness of Saddam's regime. As it has been mentioned several times before, these resources and wells are not very considerable to us from the financial and economic viewpoint, but as the honorable Majlis speaker mentioned, we do not want to waste even one barrel of our oil. On the whole, this process [words indistinct], but it has great losses. [end recording]

Operations Against 'Hypocrites' Organization Reported

LD151313 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] The self-sacrificing combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, selflessly assisted and succored by the Muslim inhabitants of Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces and the city of Mahabad, in a series of successful operations, dealt heavy blows to the remnants of the organizations of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and the pro-East and pro-West minigroups fighting God.

According to this report,in the Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces, following the capture of four of the main ringleaders of the monafeqin organizations, who were on the run and intended to seek refuge with global arrogance, eight safe-houses of the monafeqin were discovered and three of their bases and assembly points in the Hashtpar Forests were destroyed and,in the process, 35 monafeqin agents, including those in charge of organization and their terrorist operations in Gilan, Mazandaran, and Jangal were either killed or captured by the mighty hand of the defenders of the Islamic Revolution. During these successful operations, large numbers of weapons, quantities of explosives, wireless sets, and intergroup documents and evidence of their subservience to global arrogance were captured by Islam's forces.

In the city of Mahabad, the self-sacrificing combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, with assistance of the Muslim inhabitants of Mahabad, in the course of operations succeeded in discovering and destroying more than 20 dens of corruption of the subservient minigroups fighting God and captured 43 members of the urban organizations of the miningroups in the pay of both East and West, organized into several urban terrorist teams. During these successful operations, quantities of arms and ammunition, including several sidearms, a number of light weapons, several antivehicle and antipersonnel mines, together with quantities of detonators as well as intergroup documents and evidence. Also captured from those under arrest were various types of evidence indicating their active participation in inhuman urban plots, including the setting ablaze of communications installations, throwing of handgrenades, other plans for explosions and sabotage and also assassinations of Muslim Kurdish peshmargas and the Muslim inhabitants of Mahabad.

Operation Against 'Counterrevolutionaries' Cited

LD161731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] According to reports received from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, in a series of coordinated operations which began at 0100 yesterday in the (Mahal-e Anzal) region near the Urumiyeh, the powerful combatants of Islam destroyed the positions of counterrevolutionaries in the villages of (Kureh-e Bala) and (Kureh-e Pa'in), killing 14 armed assailants and hypocrites and taking all their firearms and equipment as booty. In these operations, 21 counterrevolutionaries were arrested by the forces of Islam.

Also, in another operation carried out on the Mahabad-Sar Dasht axis, the combatants of Islam succeeded in clearing another 12 km of the sensitive and important Mahabad-Sar Dasht axis which had been under the occupation of the counterrevolutionaries since the beginning of the revolution. The villages of [name indistinct], (Dobiseh), Khatun (Dasti), (Golyar), (Nazemeh),and Hamid were recaptured from the armed assailants.

Kurdish Party Officials Surrender to Guards Corps

LD162035 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Excerpts] According to reports from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada base, following the repeated and crushing blows dealt by the forces of Islam on the corpse of the rebels and the counterrevolutionaries subservient to the international colonialism in Kordestan and Western Azarbayjan, a large number of central and organizational cadres and officials in charge of different commissions in the defunct Democratic Party presented themselves to the bases of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in several towns including Oshnaviyeh, Piranshahr, and Mahabad and, repenting for their past, returned to the bosom of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those who surrendered from the subservient and counterrevolutionary democratic group include a number of central and organizational cadres.

Those arrested, while expressing their hatred toward the criminal acts committed by the groups subservient to Eastern or Western imperialism and divulging shocking facts about the relations between the defunct Democratic Party and the Zionist government ruling Iraq and other subservient governments, and elaborating on the exploitations and bullying by the minigroups and their acts of aggression against the life, property, and honor of the Muslim Kurdish people, asked to be allowed to take part in the fight against the counterrevolution so as to compensate for their disgraceful acts in the past.

According to this report, quoting those who surrendered, a large number of the duped elements of the minigroups subservient to the East and the West have realized the evil nature of the subservient and criminal leaders of the counterrevolutionary groups and are waiting for an opportunity to return to the bosom of Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Minister of State Inspects Khark Island

GF170900 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, Minister of State for Planning and Budget Banki visited Khark Island last Thursday. After his arrival there, he inspected the residential units (?under construction) for the naval force. Later, he took part in a meeting at which the district officer, the commander of the land forces on the island, and other officials [words indistinct] were present. He discussed with them matters concerning the problems of the military personnel and ways and means to solve them. Certain decisions were made at this meeting.

Prior to the Islamic Revolution, the construction work at the residential quarters of the naval force was carried out by an Israeli company, but after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and confiscation of that company, the construction work at the naval force base at the island was taken over by Iranians.

Nabavi, Delegation Depart for Turkey 16 April

LD161007 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA — Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi left here for Ankara, Turkey, this morning at the head of an 18-member delegation comprising experts of various ministries and also two Majlis deputies.

The objective of the visit, Nabavi described before departure, was to follow up mutual technical and economic cooperation started two years ago, which led to the conclusion of successful letters of understanding.

Referring to the volume of trade between Turkey and the Islamic Republic the minister noted that the volume for the current year was higher than what was expected.

Therefore, he added, in his tour the delegation would also review the existing letter of understanding to probably boost bulk of bilateral transactions.

Turkey purchased 1,166 million dollars worth of oil from the Islamic Republic last year in return for which Iran imported from Turkey foodstuffs and other consumer products, Nabavi said.

The visit might also lead to the signing of a letter of understanding or an agreement between the two countries after a review in bilateral relations, the minister noted.

Soviet Aid Arrives for Earthquake Victims

LD161215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, this morning an aircraft from the Soviet Union, carrying 16 tons of aid donated by the USSR to the (Haraz) earthquake victims, landed in Tehran. This aid includes blankets, tents, medicine and infant foods.

Soviet Environmental Experts Arrive 12 April

GF121702 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA — A group of environmental experts from the Soviet Union arrived here today to attend the seventh session of the standing task group of Iran and the Soviet Union for prevention of contamination of Caspian Sea.

In the session which is to last one week, both sides will discuss and exchange views on issues related to hydrology, hydrochemistry and hydrobiology of the Caspian Sea. In conclusion of the session a letter of understanding will be signed between the two countries.

Studies on Caspian Sea waters started ten years ago and so far environmental experts of the two countries have held six sessions, and four joint marine exploration voyages have been taken.

Talks Open 13 April

LD131135 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA — Latest results of Irano-Soviet cooperation for the preservation of Caspian Sea pollution was discussed at the seventh session of the permanent working group of the two countries, opened here this morning.

A letter of understanding is expected to be signed between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union in his connection during the one-week stay of the Soviet environment delegation here.